

NIFA in the News – Week of October 22, 2012

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the [NIFA newsroom](#)? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA's mentions in the news media for the week of October 22, 2012.

In the News

ESF Partners in \$10M USDA Biofuels Grant (Equities.com 10/19). The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) is a partner in a \$10 million research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that is aimed at developing a robust biofuels industry in the Northeast. [Link](#)

U.S. Ag Secretary tours county's commercial kitchen (Leaf-Chronicle 10/19) Jean Bragg filled the Montgomery County Extension Commercial Kitchen with some of the great smells of autumn, Friday, baking several loaves of her pumpkin bread. It's a talent that Bragg, once jobless, has been able to turn into a business, enabling her to be her own boss, thanks to Martha Martin-Pile, agent for the local Family and Consumer Sciences division of the University of Tennessee/Montgomery County Extension Service. In the beginning at least, Bragg wouldn't have been able to afford the up-front capital expenses of commercial kitchen equipment, so the county's kitchen made it happen for her. Later on, the hope is that her business will grow to the point that she can be self-sustaining in all facets of the operation. [Link](#)

Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack visits Montgomery County UT Extension Commercial Kitchen (Clarksville Online 10/20). It's not just pie in the sky. A commercially equipped kitchen in Montgomery County is using baked goods to help small and emerging rural businesses grow and create jobs and income. Operated jointly by University of Tennessee Extension and Tennessee State University Extension, the kitchen has benefited from several USDA grants, and on Friday, Oct. 19, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack visited the facility and checked out some of the products created by local culinary entrepreneurs. Vilsack stopped by following a roundtable discussion with Tennessee producers to discuss the resiliency and productivity of American agriculture and the importance of passing comprehensive food, farm and jobs legislation. [Link](#)

Running on willows: ESF awarded grant to develop Northeast biofuels industry (The Daily Orange 10/22). The United States Department of Agriculture awarded SUNY-ESF a \$10-million grant to help develop the Northeast biofuels industry. The grant will establish the Northeast Woody/Warm-season Biomass Consortium, a network of universities, businesses and governmental organizations that will work

together to develop biomass, or organic material, supply chains. [Link](#)

Scientists map the barley genome (Agprofessional.com 10/22). In a major advance that will unlock the benefits of the mapping of the barley genome — one of the world's most important cereal crops — work conducted and supported by the USDA in collaboration with researchers around the world has resulted in the most advanced sequencing of the barley genome to date, as reported in the journal Nature. [Link](#)

Stakeholders Come Together to Promote Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding (KTIC 10/23). The Weed Science Society of America is joining more than 30 organizations in a commitment to launch a National Stakeholder Team for Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding. Members of this initiative include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Corn Growers Association, BASF, Monsanto and Syngenta - among others. [Link](#)

WSU receives USDA agriculture grant (The News Tribune 10/23). Finding ways to involve primary water users in the research process to develop scientifically sound and economically feasible public policy for water usage in the Columbia River Basin is the focus on a new \$1.5 million grant at Washington State University. Scientists from WSU's School of the Environment and the WSU Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach have received a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant to build a collaborative water modeling project in the Columbia River Basin. [Link](#)

Scientists map the barley genome (Dairy Herd 10/23). In a major advance that will unlock the benefits of the mapping of the barley genome — one of the world's most important cereal crops — work conducted and supported by the USDA in collaboration with researchers around the world has resulted in the most advanced sequencing of the barley genome to date, as reported in the journal Nature. [Link](#)

USDA grant funds quinoa research (Capital Press 10/24). The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently awarded a \$1.6 million grant to research the basics of growing quinoa. The researchers, led by Washington State University, will study growing organic quinoa. [Link](#)

Program has \$9 million to develop better grapes (Cornell Chronicle 10/24). It can take 20 years of research, resources and effort to bring a new grape variety to market. VitisGen, a multidisciplinary research project co-led by Cornell grape breeder Bruce Reisch, will soon provide breeders tools they can use to develop more and better varieties in that time. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has just awarded the project an additional \$2.5 million to continue this research. The five-year VitisGen molecular research project, launched in 2011 with an initial \$2.1 million grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), is a collaboration among 25 scientists from 12 institutions, including all of the nation's public grape breeding programs. [Link](#)

Antibiotics and sustainability (Bovine Veterinarian 10/25). These days the terms “antibiotic use in livestock” and “sustainable agriculture” are two buzzwords (buzzterms?) that aren’t often used in the same sentence complementing each other. However, in his recent blog, Scott Hurd, DVM, PhD, Iowa State University, discusses these two terms and how they fit together. He references the USDA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative’s definition of sustainable agriculture that includes five goals. [Link](#)

Program seeks to control PRRS on Wisconsin hog farms (Agri-View 10/25). Research advancements and producer-led efforts are making strides toward PRRS control and elimination in hog-producing regions, including the 13-county area of southwest Wisconsin. A combined effort between the National Pork Board and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture has established the PRRS Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) to control and eliminate the virus. Several regional projects are underway, including projects in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. [Link](#)

SDA omega-3: The future of trans-fat-free margarine? (Food Navigator 10/25). Stearidonic acid (SDA) soybean oil may offer a trans-fat-free base for margarine, while simultaneously boosting omega-3 intakes, suggests new data. The study was funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Center Continues Grant Program (KTIC 10/25). The North Central Risk Management Education Center has been awarded nearly \$1.2 million in funding for 2013. This funding will be turned around in the form of grants to qualified entities including educational institutions, farm and commodity organizations, lenders, consultants and other risk management education providers. The Extension Risk Management Education is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Rebecca's research roundup: organic dairy and awe (Minnesota Daily 10/25). The University received a \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase profits of organic dairy farms, according to a University press release. While the project will be headquartered at the West Central Research and Outreach Center on the University of Minnesota-Morris campus, experts, farmers and scientists will work on it throughout the state. The University is one of two land-grant universities that produce their own certified organic dairy products. The University of New Hampshire's center is the other. Heins explained in the release how they’ll help make organic dairy farms more profitable. [Link](#)

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